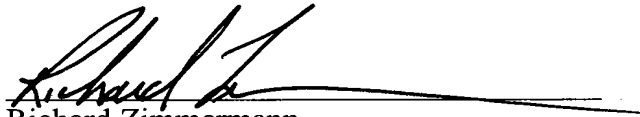


PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

The amendments to the specification section begins on page 2 of this paper;

The amendments to the claims section (including a complete listing of claims) begins
on page 3 of this paper;

The remarks section begins on page 11 of this paper.